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In Search of Solitude



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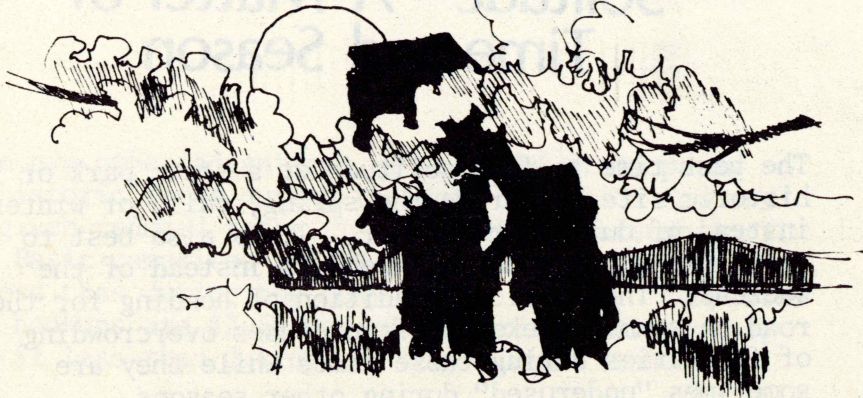
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*What would a man do if we were compelled to  
live always in the sultry heat of society and  
could never better himself in cool solitude?*

*--Nathaniel Hawthorne*







Each of us sometimes feels the need to retreat from the everyday world and seek a more peaceful environment in which to communicate with ourselves and our surroundings. This search for solitude leads many of us away from the world of the domestic and synthetic and into the world of the wild and natural.

Here it is easy to appreciate what nature was like before man began tampering with it; here the word "survival" takes on new dimensions; here we begin to realize just what a precious resource the "open space" remaining in this country today really is.

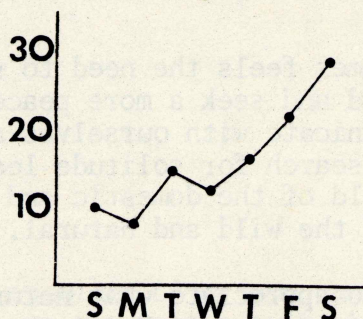
In Missouri close to 100,000 acres of land have been preserved as state parks and historic sites. This mass of preserved land offers many opportunities for those in search of solitude. Because most visitors come to state parks and historic sites in Missouri during the summer season and some areas are heavily visited while others are not, the individual seeking solitude needs guidance in where to go and when to visit these places. This brochure is intended as a guide for persons who desire to experience the outdoors and escape the world of people for a brief interlude.

For additional information contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Public Information, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65101. (314) 751-3443



# Solitude - A Matter of Time and Season

The best time to find solitude at a state park or historic site is during the spring, fall, or winter instead of during the summer. It is also best to visit these areas during weekdays instead of the weekend. The American tradition of heading for the road on summer weekends often causes overcrowding of facilities during these times while they are sometimes "underused" during other seasons.



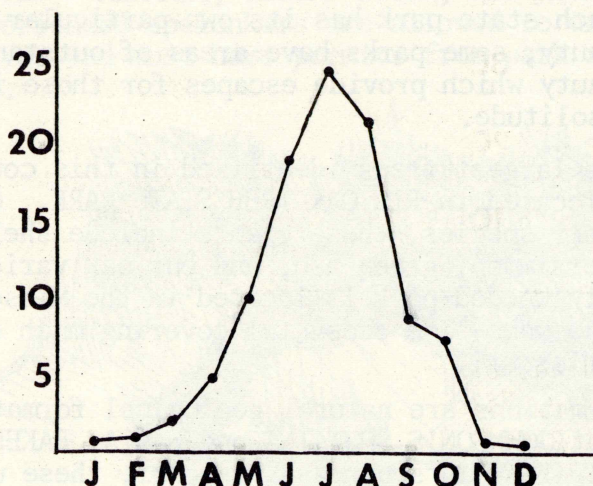
*Two-thirds of all park visitors appear on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. Persons arriving on other days would find facilities less crowded.*

If you choose to visit a park or historic site during the weekdays or during the "off season" you will not only find solitude but also have a better chance of discovering the wildlife such as deer, wild turkeys, raccoons, squirrels, and a wide variety of birds which make their homes in these areas, all of which serve as wildlife refuges.

Whether you like to hike, picnic, fish, play tennis, or swim, you will find less competition to use the recreational facilities in each park if you visit on weekdays and during the less busy seasons of the year. Visitors to state historic sites during the "off" times will find more time to take a closer look at Missouri's past without having to compete with crowds.



There are other advantages of visiting state parks and historic sites during the "off season." Campers are given reduced rates from November 1 through April 14. Basic campsites are \$2 per night during this time, \$1 less than during the busy summer season. Campsites with hookups are \$2.50 per night during this period, also \$1 less than during the busy summer season.



*Nearly 80 percent of all state park visitors appear between May 1 and August 31.*

Comfortable warm temperatures occur frequently during Missouri winters. In northern Missouri, days with temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit are just as common as days with temperatures below zero. In southern Missouri, about 40 percent of the days are above 50 degrees and many are above 70 degrees. Missourians do not experience a permanent snow cover in winter. Appreciable snowfall does occur, but periods of warm weather usually melt the snow shortly after it falls.



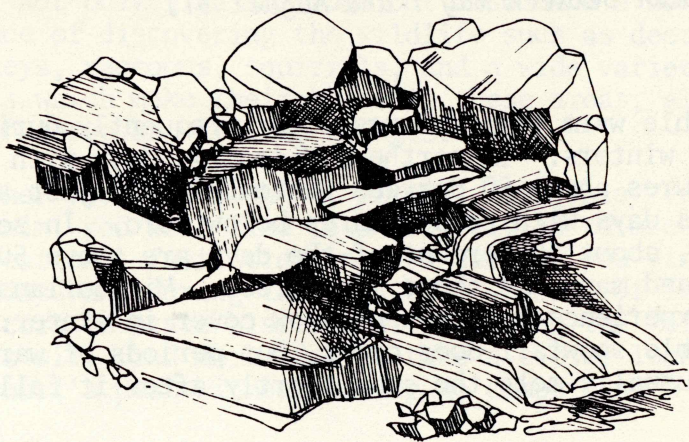
# An Escape to Beauty

Only 20 percent of most state parks have been developed with recreational facilities. The remaining acreage has been left in its natural state for such activities as hiking, birdwatching, nature study, and finding solitude. Park superintendents and park naturalists are willing to guide visitors to lesser-used areas and point out unique natural features.

Although each state park has its own particular form of beauty, some parks have areas of outstanding natural beauty which provide escapes for those in search of solitude.

Some of the largest trees identified in this country today are located in BIG OAK TREE STATE PARK. Champions of their species, these giants include shellbark hickory, persimmon, green ash, and bur oak varieties. This heavily wooded park is located in the Missouri lowlands, a swamp-like ecosystem covering much of southeast Missouri.

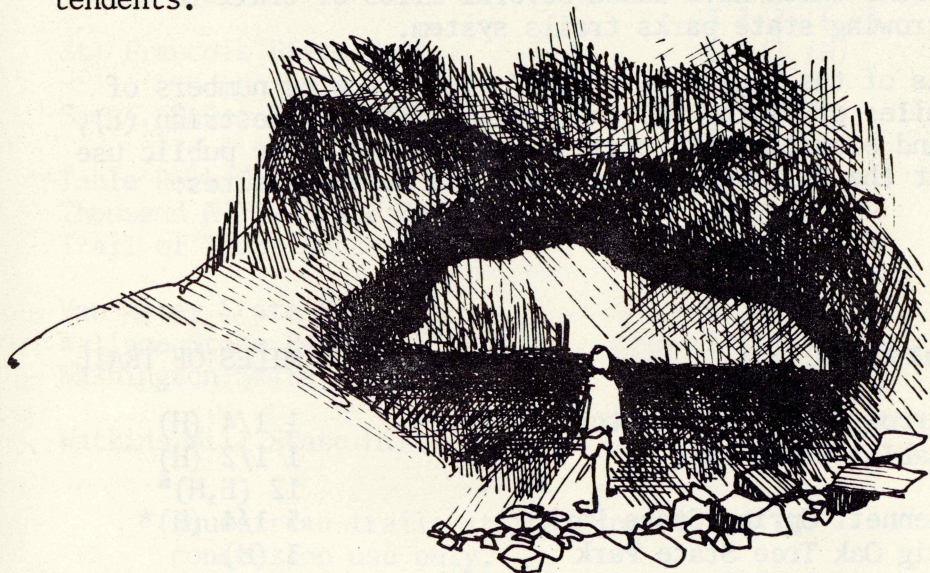
Shut-in formations are natural geological formations of beauty at JOHNSON'S SHUT-INS and SAM A. BAKER STATE PARKS. Prevalent in southeast Missouri, these unusual rock formations lining creek and river beds are inviting to outdoor explorers and photographers.





Giant rocks formed billions of years ago stand end on end at ELEPHANT ROCKS STATE PARK, also located in southeast Missouri. A one-mile trail adapted for blind and handicapped visitors tells the story of these curious outcroppings.

Caves are another geological feature found in several state parks - MERAMEC, CUIVRE RIVER, and ROCK BRIDGE. Only experienced spelunkers are allowed to explore these caves and must have permits from park superintendents.



ROCK BRIDGE STATE PARK, located in central Missouri, is known for its rustic beauty. Devil's Ice Box Cave and the Rock Bridge form an unusual hideaway which hikers enjoy exploring.

Another state park which has been preserved in a nearly natural state is HAWN, located near Ste. Genevieve. Pine trees and wild azaleas are abundant over this 2,257-acre tract which contains several areas of unique ecological significance to Missouri.





# Trails to Solitude



A recent study of the recreational needs of Missourians showed that the state has fallen short of providing hiking trails for public use, especially trails which can be hiked in one day.

To help meet this demand, the Department of Natural Resources began a program of accelerated trails development during 1975 and constructed more than 100 miles of trail in a 12-month period. This effort has been supplemented by volunteer trail crews and park crews which have added several miles of trail to our growing state parks trails system.

As of the beginning of 1977 the following numbers of miles of hiking (H), backpacking (BP), equestrian (E), and bicycling (B) trails were available for public use at the following state parks and historic sites:

LOCATION	MILES OF TRAIL
Arrow Rock State Historic Site	1 1/4 (H)
Babler State Park	1 1/2 (H)
	12 (E,H)*
Bennett Spring State Park	5 1/4 (H)
Big Oak Tree State Park	3 (H)
Boone's Lick State Historic Site	1/2 (H)
Crowder State Park	1/2 (H)
Cuivre River State Park	10 (H)
	12 (E,H)
Elephant Rocks State Park	1 (H)
Graham Cave State Park	1 1/2 (H)
Hawn State Park	1 (H)
	10 (BP, H)
Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park	1 (H)
Knob Noster State Park	1 1/2 (H)
Lake of the Ozarks State Park	16 1/2 (H)
	16 (E,H)*



Lake Wappapello State Park	15 (BP,H)
	6 (H)
Mark Twain State Park	2 (H)
Meramec State Park	15 (H)
Montauk State Park	4 (H)
Pershing State Park	1 (H)
Pomme de Terre State Park	10 (H)
Roaring River State Park	4 (H)
	4 (E,H)*
Rock Bridge State Park	2 (H)
	3 1/2 (E,H)
St. Francois State Park	6 1/2 (H)
	13 (E,H)
Sam A. Baker State Park	4 1/2 (H)
	12 (E,H)
Table Rock State Park	1/4 (H)
Thousand Hills State Park	12 1/2 (H)
Trail of Tears State Park	1 (H)
	10 (BP)
Van Meter State Park	2 1/2 (H)
Wallace State Park	2 (H)
Washington State Park	4 1/2 (H)
	10 (BP,H)
Watkins Mill State Historic Site	1 1/2 (H,B)

\* Equestrian trails at these parks are for concession use only.

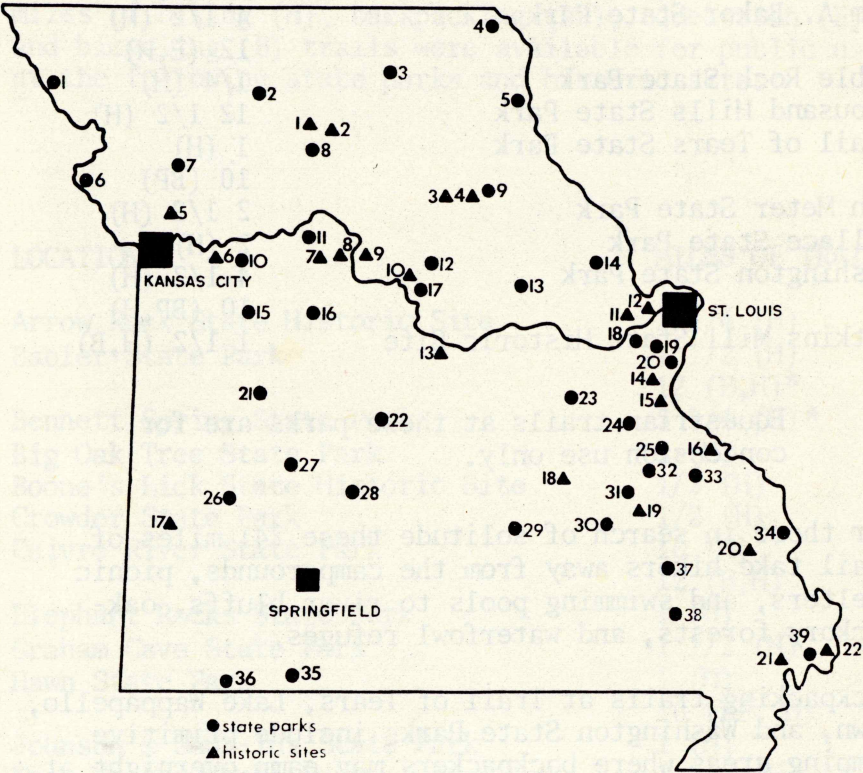
For those in search of solitude these 241 miles of trail take hikers away from the campgrounds, picnic shelters, and swimming pools to river bluffs, oak-hickory forests, and waterfowl refuges.

Backpacking trails at Trail of Tears, Lake Wappapello, Hawn, and Washington State Parks include primitive camping areas where backpackers may camp overnight at no charge.



As the inventory indicates, several trails may be used by hikers as well as horseback riders. Equestrian camps are provided for campers with horses at three state parks - Cuivre River, Sam A. Baker, and St. Francois.

Off-road motor vehicle trails are provided at Finger Lakes State Park, north of Columbia. This park, still under development, is a reclaimed strip-mining area which has a rugged terrain, making it desirable for motorcycling.





	H - Heavily visited M - Moderately visited L - Lightly visited UD - Under development	Acreage	Camping	Cabins	Dining Lodge	Fishing	Swimming	Stream	Lake	Spring	Geologic Features	Historic Features	Use
STATE PARKS													
1. Big Lake		111	X	X	X	X	X		X				M
2. Crowder		674	X			X	X		X				L
3. Thousand Hills		3,192	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	M
4. Battle of Athens		355						X					L
5. Wakonda		258	X	X	X	X	X		X				M
6. Lewis and Clark		35	X			X	X		X				M
7. Wallace		421	X			X	X		X				M
8. Pershing		1,836	X			X	X		X				L
9. Mark Twain		1,192	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	L
10. Confederate Memorial		108				X			X			X	L
11. Van Meter		794	X			X			X			X	L
12. Finger Lakes		1,110							X				L
13. Graham Cave		251	X								X		L
14. Cuivre River		5,916	X			X	X	X	X		X		M
15. Knob Noster		3,511	X			X	X		X				M
16. Bothwell Lodge		184											UD
17. Rock Bridge		1,863				X		X		X	X		M
18. Babler		2,245	X				X	X					M
19. Castlewood		1,078						X					UD
20. Mastodon		417											UD
21. Truman		1,440							X				UD
22. Lake of the Ozarks		16,528	X			X	X		X				H
23. Meramec		7,102	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		H
24. Washington		1,415	X	X	X	X	X					X	M
25. St. Francois		2,403	X			X	X	X					M
26. Stockton		2,012	X			X	X		X				L
27. Pomme de Terre		734	X			X	X		X				M
28. Bennett Spring		1,221	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			H
29. Montauk		1,096	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			H
30. Johnson's Shut-Ins		2,386	X			X	X	X			X		M
31. Elephant Rocks		126				X			X		X		M
32. St. Joe		8,500							X				UD
33. Hawn		2,257	X					X					L
34. Trail of Tears		3,268	X			X		X					L
35. Table Rock		502	X			X	X		X				H
36. Roaring River		3,459	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			H
37. Sam A. Baker		5,148	X	X	X	X	X	X					M
38. Lake Wappapello		1,854	X	X		X	X		X				M
39. Big Oak Tree		1,004				X			X				L
STATE HISTORIC SITES													
1. Locust Creek Covered Bridge		.02										X	L
2. Pershing Home		1.75										X	L
3. Union Covered Bridge		.13										X	L
4. Mark Twain Shrine and Museum												X	L
5. Watkins Mill		1,299	X			X	X		X			X	H
6. Battle of Lexington		105				X		X				X	L
7. Sappington Cemetery		2										X	L
8. Arrow Rock		137	X		X				X			X	M
9. Boone's Lick		17										X	L
10. Jewell Cemetery		1										X	L
11. Fort Zumwalt		48	X									X	M
12. First State Capitol		.66										X	L
13. Jefferson Landing		5.58										X	L
14. Sandy Creek Covered Bridge		.02										X	L
15. Daniel Dunklin's Grave		1										X	L
16. Felix Valle Home		.5											UD
17. Harry S. Truman Home		.03										X	M
18. Dillard Mill		132						X				X	L
19. Fort Davidson		2.1										X	L
20. Bollinger Mill		21.6						X				X	M
21. Hunter-Dawson Home		14.23											UD
22. Towosahy Archaeological Site		64										X	L

H - Heavily visited  
M - Moderately visited  
L - Lightly visited  
UD - Under development



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